

## **Environmental Steering Committee**

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2006

### **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Steering Committee (ESC) was called to order at 1:05 pm (EST) on January 18, 2006 by James Biasco, Chair.

### **Present:**

**James Biasco, Chair**

Doug Clark (Navajo Area)

**Gordon Delchamps**

Roger DeRoos

**Gary Gefroh**

**Doug Ott**

**Keith Shortall**

**John Smart**

Glenn Tsingine (Navajo Area)

Rick Wermers (Navajo Area)

NOTE: voting members are shown in bold type.

### **A. Old Business**

#### **Guidance Document**

- Official name will be *Guidance Document for Managing Hazardous Materials in IHS Facilities*.
- The document is substantially complete and has been distributed for review and comment several times. It was sent to the Areas to assist in developing the PSD's.
- We would like to implement the document and need to develop a Technical Handbook Chapter to formally adopt. Gordon and Roger will develop a draft to distribute to the Committee for comment. It was agreed that we will require adherence to the Best Management Practices to the maximum extent practicable. We want to present the guidance and Chapter at the February meeting in Fort Worth.
- FOH is still working on templates for O&M Plans that can be used in our facilities and possibly turned over with the buildings. Any plans can be issued as Technical Handbook Chapters.
- Related chapters of the Technical Handbook will need to be updated to reflect the new guidance. We need to determine what existing or draft chapters already deal with related issues (see section under New Business). A workgroup (or workgroups) will be formed to coordinate and finalize the chapters.

### Commander's Guide

- Official name will be the *IHS Environmental Health and Safety Awareness Guide*. The purpose is to familiarize CEO's with applicable rules and regulations.
- The draft was sent out for comment but none were received. Gordon submitted preliminary comments to Roger. Any additional comments are due to Gordon or Roger (with cc to Gordon) by COB, Friday, January 27. Roger will get comments from CEO's before moving forward.
- An Internal Resource Team (IRT) will be needed to review and develop the document. Volunteers are needed for the IRT. Gordon Delchamps, Steve Aoyama, John Smart, and CAPT Daryl Melvin (CEO, Hopi Health Center) have volunteered. Rick Wermers will request CEO's or AO's willing to serve from the Navajo Area. John Smart will ask if Bernie Diasis from San Xavier is willing to participate.
- Roger will develop a chapter schedule. Depending on how large the document gets, we may want to break it into two major sections – one for environmental health and one for occupational health. The ESC will need to address the scope and depth of the guide. It is believed that the document will not be used if it is much more than a quick reference.
- Steve will coordinate the Guide with NEPA requirements.

### Previously Submitted Projects

- Aberdeen did not resubmit their projects. They will work with FOH to perform assessments as required and develop projects for the next round.
- Early last year, requests for Advices of Allowance were forwarded to Finance for two of the three Navajo Area projects in question. Gordon will follow-up with Ione in Finance to determine whether the funds were sent to the Area.
- The Navajo Area forwarded the PSD and cost estimate for the remaining project – Environmental Remediation at Staff Lounge, SR-2021 and Field Health Building, SR-2022 at Shiprock, New Mexico. However, the estimate included costs for renovation/replacement and those activities are not fundable through the Environmental Remediation appropriation. The original request was for \$240,000. Gordon's estimate was \$128,774 and Doug's was \$146,000. **The project will be funded for and amount negotiated by Glenn and Gordon not to exceed \$146,000.**

### New Membership

- The Committee is seeking nominations/volunteers from the Areas to replace the following three members:
  - Ron Klem retired.
  - Gordon Delchamps transferred from the Oklahoma Area to Headquarters.
  - Doug Ott's membership expired in 2005.
- A call for members will be sent out to the Areas and discussed at the Facility Manager's meeting in Fort Worth.

### **OGC Decision**

- Gerald Moses is leaving his current position at Headquarters and we have not yet received an opinion regarding whether the 1990 OGC property transfer decisions are still valid.
- Jim wants to move ahead with the current decision until we hear otherwise in which case the ESC will discuss further.

### **B. New Business**

#### **40 CFR Part 745, Lead; Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program; Proposed Rule**

- We discussed the new draft guidance which is out for comment. IHS has 760 quarters units built before 1978.
- A summary is available on the EPA Web site.
- As the guidance moves forward, we will need to determine which requirements apply to IHS.

### **Funds Available Recap**

- The following funds are currently available:
  - \$9,135,936 – Environmental Remediation.
  - \$916,514 – Demolition.
- Keith would like to discuss this issue at the Facility Manager's meeting in Fort Worth. Areas should review their deficiencies and update HFDS as many of the "deficiencies" may be based on complete removal of all hazardous materials.

### **PSD Review and Project Award**

- A total of eleven (11) PSD's for Environmental Remediation projects and five (5) Demolition projects were submitted, received, and reviewed by the ESC.
- Each PSD was reviewed and discussed in detail by the ESC.
- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC **recommended funding** the following five (5) Environmental Remediation projects:
  - Oklahoma – Asbestos Abatement of Soil for the Lawton Indian Hospital Expansion/Renovation Project - \$565,780.
  - Oklahoma – Special Study for Existing Hazardous Materials of the Old Talihina Indian Hospital Campus – Not to exceed \$60,000.
  - Phoenix – Asbestos Management Plans - \$66,000. Area plans to use FOH to develop the plans.
  - Phoenix – Lead-Based Paint Stabilization at Fort Yuma - \$88,000. Area needs to be aware of clearance testing. Area will submit request for additional funding if actual costs are higher.
  - Phoenix – Survey of Asbestos Containing Materials and Lead-Based Paint at Whiteriver and Keam's Canyon Quarters - \$460,000. Area needs to specify LBP survey in accordance with HUD and EPA requirements/protocols. Area should request the contractor include management plans.
- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC requested that each respective Area **provide clarification** regarding the following five (5) Environmental Remediation projects:
  - Navajo – Building Environmental Remediation at the Old Fort Defiance Indian Hospital. The Area is requesting \$457,208 for ACM removal and to hire an A/E to determine subsequent activities. They don't yet know whether they will transfer the building to the tribe or demolish the building and have no time line for this decision.
 

The ESC agreed to fund either remediation or demolition but need the Area's decision regarding which way to proceed. The Area will withdraw the PSD and resubmit when an agreement has been reached with the tribe. There may be multiple buildings and historic issues involved too.
  - Navajo – Environmental Remediation and Building Demolition Chinle Duplexes 2001-2006. If the landfill will accept the waste as ordinary construction waste, Environmental Remediation funds will not be needed. If the landfill will not accept the waste as ordinary construction waste, Environmental Remediation funds will be needed.

The Area will determine how the waste will be treated. If required, the ESC agreed to reimburse any required remediation activities. See same project under Demolition section.

- Navajo – Environmental Remediation and Building Demolition Shiprock Building SR-2036. If the landfill will accept the waste as ordinary construction waste, Environmental Remediation funds will not be needed. If the landfill will not accept the waste as ordinary construction waste, Environmental Remediation funds will be needed.

The Area will determine how the waste will be treated. If required, the ESC agreed to reimburse any required remediation activities. See same project under Demolition section.

- Navajo – Environmental Remediation and Building Demolition Tohatchi Buildings 2000-2003. The buildings contain RACM. The Area will determine whether the tribe wants the buildings or if they will be demolished. The Area should have a decision by February 20, 2006. If required, the ESC agreed to reimburse any required remediation activities. See same project under Demolition section.

- Oklahoma – Remove Underground Storage Tanks at WW Hastings Indian Medical Center. The tanks do not appear to be regulated tanks. The Area needs to provide an accurate estimate with justification and a synopsis of the Corporation Commission report. If the responses adequately address the questions the project will be funded as a reimbursement of actual costs. However, the ESC will only fund the removal and monitoring. Any replacement tanks and associated work will be the responsibility of the Area.

- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC **recommended against funding** the following one (1) Environmental Remediation project:

- Tucson – San Xavier Remediation and Renovation for SX-1. The damage appears to result from flooding and the cause needs to be well documented. The ESC does not fund mold remediation. If the damaged materials contain ACM or LBP, their removal and disposal can be funded. It is unknown whether ACM and LBP surveys have been performed nor whether those materials exist in the affected areas. If assessments have not been performed, the Area should request funding to have true assessments done. The Area should provide a listing of all other hazards in the affected areas. The project as submitted is not fundable. If assessments show the existence of other hazards, the Area should submit a PSD for their removal.

- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC **recommended funding** the following one (1) Demolition projects:
  - Oklahoma – Demolition of Building 424 – Pharmacy Outpatient Building Lawton Indian Hospital. The Area will provide proof of NESHAPS inspections. The Area will combine with the Incinerator Removal project - \$72,720.
  
- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC requested that each respective Area **provide clarification** regarding the following three (3) Demolition projects:
  - Navajo – Environmental Remediation and Building Demolition Chinle Duplexes 2001-2006. If the landfill will accept the waste as ordinary construction waste, Environmental Remediation funds will not be needed. If the landfill will not accept the waste as ordinary construction waste, Environmental Remediation funds will be needed.
 

The Area will determine how the waste will be treated. If required, the ESC agreed to fund \$86,000 for demolition activities. See same project under Environmental Remediation section.
  - Navajo – Environmental Remediation and Building Demolition Shiprock Building SR-2036. If the landfill will accept the waste as ordinary construction waste, Environmental Remediation funds will not be needed. If the landfill will not accept the waste as ordinary construction waste, Environmental Remediation funds will be needed.
 

The Area will determine how the waste will be treated. If required, the ESC agreed to fund \$381,075 for demolition activities. See same project under Environmental Remediation section.
  - Navajo – Environmental Remediation and Building Demolition Tohatchi Buildings 2000-2003. The buildings contain RACM. The Area will determine whether the tribe wants the buildings or if they will be demolished. The Area should have a decision by February 20, 2006.
 

The Area will determine how the waste will be treated. If required, the ESC agreed to fund \$108,000 for demolition activities. See same project under Environmental Remediation section.
  
- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC **recommended against funding** the following one (1) Demolition project:
  - Oklahoma – Incinerator Removal – Lawton Indian Hospital. The amount requested is below the fundable threshold. The Area will combine the project

with the Demolition of Building 424. See note under Demolition projects recommended for funding.

### **Technical Handbook Chapters**

- We need to update and finalize Technical Handbook Chapters related to environmental issues. The following chapters are currently outstanding:
  - Volume III Chapter 23-1, Environmental Reviews, dated 1997 – currently available on Web site.
  - Volume III Chapter 24-10, Environmental and Occupational Monitoring, dated 1998 – currently available on Web site.
  - Volume VI Chapter 75-1, Guidelines for the Environmental Remediation Activities Process – working draft currently available on Web site.
  - Volume VI Chapter 75-2, Guidelines for the Environmental Remediation Funds Steering Committee – working draft currently available on Web site.
  - Volume VI Chapter 75-3, Guidelines for the Environmental Remediation Special Studies – final draft dated 1999.
  - Volume VI Chapter 75-4, Guidelines for the Environmental Remediation Assessments – final draft dated 1999.
  - Volume VI Chapter 75-5, Guidelines for the Environmental Remediation Activities Funding and Prioritization – final draft dated 1999.
  - Volume VI Chapter 75-6, Final Reports for Environmental Remediation and Demolition Projects – draft date unknown.
  - Volume VI Chapter 75-7, Asbestos Abatement – draft dated 2005.
  - Volume VI Chapter 75-8, HVAC Refrigerants Use – draft dated 2005.
  - Volume VI Chapter 75-9, Implementation of Guidance Document – under development.
  - Volume VI Chapter 76-X, Demolition Funds – draft dated 1999.
- We need a workgroup to coordinate the work using FOH for assistance. Gordon (Chairperson), John, and Gary volunteered however, we need several more members – Phoenix Area has no one available and Navajo Area will let us know.

### **Assessments**

- We performed comprehensive assessments approximately ten years ago and need to establish protocol for assessments and the recommended time between assessments.
- Jim will discuss at the Facility Manager's meeting in Fort Worth.

### **C. Date and Agenda for Next Meeting**

The next Environmental Steering Committee meeting has not yet been scheduled. Once a meeting is determined necessary, a date will be determined and an agenda will be developed and distributed to all members.

### **Adjournment:**

James Biasco adjourned meeting at 3:30 pm (EST).

Minutes submitted by:            Gordon R. Delchamps

Approved by:                      James R. Biasco